



BAGRAM NEWS EXPRESS

START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

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Warfighters celebrate Air Force's 62nd Birthday



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Several hundred Airmen salute as the U.S. flag is raised at 6 a.m., at Camp Cunningham here on the 62nd Air Force Birthday, Sept. 18, 2009. The Airmen ran a five kilometer run afterwards to show their strength and determination to continue taking the fight to the enemy everyday. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

**By Tech. Sgt. John Jung,
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Hundreds of Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines celebrated the 62nd Air Force birthday with tradition, solidarity and a show of force here Sept. 18, 2009.

A reveille ceremony was held at 6 a.m. at the base flag poles in Camp Cunningham, named after Air Force pararescueman Senior Airman Jason D. Cunningham, who gave his life in Afghanistan in March 2002, while saving 10 wounded Army Soldiers.

After reveille, more than 400 servicemembers

then started a five kilometer run in unison to show the solidarity and strength of the Coalition Forces here at Bagram.

Following the run, a formal cake cutting ceremony was held and then Coalition servicemembers from all over Bagram were invited to the flightline to see the airpower assembled here. They had the opportunity to climb aboard a C-130 Hercules, an F-15E Strike Eagle, an F-16 Fighting Falcon and an Army UH-60 Blackhawk and have their photo taken with the aircraft.

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BIRTHDAY

Brig. Gen. Steven Kwast, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, briefly summed up his thoughts about being the host of the 62nd Air Force Birthday celebration here while at war in Afghanistan.

"While we're celebrating the Air Force's 62nd birthday it is important to remember that we're involved in a joint fight serving the Army and other Coalition ground forces bringing this counterinsurgency to an end in Afghanistan," he said. "What a fine way to celebrate our heritage - we came from the Army - we have the same foundations. We celebrate that heritage by fighting together with our sister services and Coalition partners. We're bringing freedom and liberty to this part of the world by taking care of the insurgents' sanctuary to where they cannot run and they can-

not hide."

Both Coalition members and our sister services were thankful for the Air Force's support and efforts for their troops on the ground and in contact with the enemy.

"We have a great working relationship with your pilots and the close air support we receive from you has no limitations," said Polish Army Lt. Col. Slawomir Warnbier.

Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Wright, 101st Airborne, Fort Campbell, Ky., echoed Col. Warnbier's sentiments about the Air Force's role in Afghanistan.

"The Air Force airdrops are providing needed support to Soldiers in the field; getting people and parts to our guys in the [Forward Operating Bases] and in the mountains. The Air Force is doing a great job and it's great to have them out here," said Warrant Officer Wright.



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Staff Sgt. Ryan Oliver, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team leader from the 755th Air Expeditionary Group demonstrates the capabilities of their robot for a crowd here at an Open House ceremony in honor of the Air Force's 62nd birthday here, Sept. 18, 2009. The Air Force birthday events started at 6 a.m. with a military formation of hundreds of Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, reveille, a five kilometer run and was later followed by a ceremony and open house with many Air Force aircraft on display. The open-house event was held for Soldiers, Marines and Sailors to get more acquainted with their Air Force counterparts who are often providing support from the sky, or from remote bases scattered across Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Captain David Faggard)

62nd Air Force Birthday photo collage



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62nd Air Force Birthday photo collage



62nd Air Force Birthday photo collage



*Photos by Capt. David Faggard,
Tech. Sgt. John Jung
and Senior Airman Felicia Juenke
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public
Affairs Office*



Bringing bees to produce honey, pollinate Panjshir



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - A local bee-keeper in the Dara district of Panjshir province, Afghanistan, attends to one of his hives. The original two colonies given to him in 2008 have grown into 10. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Mike Keller)

by Capt. John T. Stamm
Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- In an effort to increase agricultural productivity and boost economic capacity, 450 deserving families throughout Panjshir province were supplied with training and materials to operate and manage their own honey production businesses.

The Panjshir Ministry of Agriculture-sponsored program began in July 2008 with the delivery of 900 bee boxes (two per family) called "lower deep supers" or "brood chambers," complete with a queen bee and a starter colony.

Initially, "starter" colonies produce only enough honey to

survive, but as the colonies continue to grow, they will produce excess honey that can be harvested. This natural progression requires an "excluder" for the queen, "deep upper supers" or "food chambers" for the bees, and additional training for the bee-keepers.

"The deep uppers are where the bees store the excess honey that will be harvested and will allow the queen growing room for the colony to keep them from swarming to another location," said Mr. Greg Schlenz, United States Department of Agriculture representative to the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team. "The training is necessary to ensure understanding in bee colony development and use of received materials."

Local sources that were interviewed had no recollection of a substantial honey-bee population ever existing in the Panjshir province. 42-year old Abdulla Shah, a life-long resident of the valley and Mujahideen guard, stated the Dara district had some honey-bee hives prior to the PRT arrival, but does not know what happened to them.

"I remember seeing the hives and the farmers selling honey in Dara about five years ago," Abdulla said. "But, I don't remember them anywhere else in Panjshir, not even as a child."

According to the USDA, bees are a vital component in pollination, a process by which the male cells of a plant are carried

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BEES

necessary in agriculture because 80 percent of plant fertilization occurs by animal interaction. Without pollination, plants cannot bear fruit or reproduce.

"Pollination was the number one reason for bringing bees into the province," Mr. Schlenz said. "The secondary reason was the honey production."

A single bee hive can pollinate a three-mile radius and produce three harvestable kilograms of honey a year. Currently in Panjshir the price of honey is between 300 and 1,000 Afghanis a kilogram, or about six dollars a pound. This translates into an average of 2,100 Afghanis, or \$42, per hive per year. This is a substantial sup-

plement to the farmer's income, which averages 20,000 Afghanis, or \$400 a year.

A farmer in the Khenj district of Panjshir, who identified himself as "Abdullah," is a participant in the bee-keeping project. His farm has grown from two to five hives in just one season.

"This has been very good for my family," said Abdullah. "I have the honey for my family and the bees have increased the pollination in my fields."

The beneficiaries of the starter bee-farms were hand-picked by the Panjshir Director of Agriculture through consult with community shuras. The recipients had to meet stringent criteria and attend four weeks of training, which included biology, species, identification, rais-

ing and caring techniques, maintenance, pollination, production and harvesting, and basic business and marketing skills.

The project not only benefits the ecosystem, it also builds capacity through cooperation. Currently, there are only two honey extractors within each of Panjshir's seven districts; with bee-keepers sharing the equipment. Through this process, bee-keepers share experience, knowledge and information.

"It's a win-win project where, agriculturally, we are seeing an increase in fruit, vegetables, wild flowers, clovers, alfalfas and other plants," Schlenz said. "Secondly, the farmers are earning an extra income they probably never thought would occur from bees."



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Greg Schlenz, a U.S. Department of Agriculture representative to the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team, inspects a hive-top feeder. The feeders are filled with sugar syrup and placed on top of the hives during the winter, so the bees will have enough food to survive. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Mike Keller)

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Volunteer

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Contact your First Sergeant for more details.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVANCE

DATE: 10 OCT 09
TIME: 1830-2000L


WHERE: FOUR CORNERS MWR CLAMSHELL

WHY: TO OBSERVE, CELEBRATE, AND EDUCATE HOW HISPANICS/LATINOS HAVE INFLUENCED AND CONTRIBUTED TO AMERICAN CULTURE

Smoking is allowed:

- ☐ In your room
- ☐ Between the huts
- ☐ In a GOV
- ☒ None of the above

Smoking is **ONLY** authorized in designated areas.
By order of the Wing Commander



Air Force Equal Opportunity

"Zero Tolerance"

ACCOUNTABILITY

Slurs

Discrimination

Sexual Harassment

Disparaging Comments

Race, Sex, Religious Jokes

E-mailing, Texting Offensive Material

Favoritism on "Protected" Basis

Derogatory Displays

Graffiti

LEADERSHIP

WINGMAN

PROFESSIONALISM

Support Diversity
EO is Everyone's Business

NEWS BRIEFS

IMMUNIZATIONS: Are your immunizations up to date? Active duty members are required to stay current on all immunizations during their deployment. Report to your nearest medical treatment facility to check your status and get vaccinated. For questions, contact Task Force Medical Public Health, 431-4426.

GOING TDY: All Air Force members are required to in and out-process through PERSCO for TDYs, Emergency Leave or R&R Leave/Pass. The PAX terminal will not manifest you until they have documentation stamped from PERSCO. All personnel assigned to the 455th are required to complete the AOR Travel Authorization Memo for any type of TDY. Please direct questions to PERSCO, 431-4409/2070.

NEWCOMERS INPROCESSING: All Air Force members are required to inprocess with PERSCO. The inprocessing will start your combat pay entitlements. If you have been in the AOR for at least 30 days and you are not receiving combat pay, visit Finance in the crow's nest tower on Camp Cunningham. If you know for a fact that you did not inprocess with PERSCO, please visit PERSCO located in Bldg. 700 near the passenger terminal. Call 431-2070/4409 for more information.

PAPERLESS HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE: Just arrived here at Bagram? Got promoted? Hit a milestone in your career? Tell your family and friends at home by sending a paperless Hometown News Release available on the Bagram Air Field public Web site at this link: <https://hnforms.dmasa.dma.mil/lfserver/455AEWBAGRAM>. Just fill out the form and hit submit. It's that easy.

COMBAT O: Combat Orientation is Wednesday at 0830Z/1300L at the Enduring Faith Chapel. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Air Field. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the first sergeants.



Bagram's policy for destruction of sensitive or classified material is "shred or burn." DO NOT take sensitive or classified information to the base burn pit and leave it unattended.

You must stay and ensure materials are delivered into the incinerator and destroyed. Do your part to keep information out of the hands of the enemy...Force protection is YOUR business!

455 AEW AT/FP Office: 431-4207
Capt. Sprute - Antiterrorism Officer
MSGt. Holtzmann - AT/FP Program Manager

Force Protection is **your** business - **everyone** is a sensor



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